

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028088

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 6 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

UPI SAIGON REPORTS FOUR-MAN TEAMS OF US AIRMEN COME IN
FROM PI FOR SHORT PERIODS TO HELP GVN WITH MIL LOGISTICAL
SYSTEM (NYDN).

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PAGE 02 STATE 028088

"BIG" MINH SAID THIEU GOVT MUST ALLOW ADVANCE OF DEMOCRACY AND ESTABLISH "POLITICAL STRUCTURES NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, OR EVERYTHING WILL COLLAPSE" (UPI, NYDN). CALLED PRESS CRACKDOWN ACT OF TYRANNY (AP, SUN). NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON ALSO REPORTS "BIG" MINH'S DENUNCIATION AT PARTY WHERE OPPOSITION LEADERS EXCHANGED IDEAS. SAYS SEVERAL NOTED THAT THIEU IS FOND OF SPRINGING POLITICAL SURPRISES AT TET, WHEN PUBLIC IS TRADITIONALLY OCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC CONCERNS. QUOTES PUBLISHER OF OPPOSITION DAILY THAT THIEU MUST HAVE "DESPAIED" OF GETTING SUPPLEMENTAL MIL AID, AND "NOW THAT HE IS NO LONGER TIED TO THE AMERICANS, HE CAN DO WHAT HE WANTS." SAYS REV THANH AT PARTY STATED THAT HE WOULD BE ORGANIZING "TALKING NEWSPAPER" SESSIONS IN SAIGON'S CHURCHES TO FILL VOID LEFT BY CLOSED DAILIES.

HANOI RADIO BROADCAST EDITORIAL BY PEOPLE'S DAILY THAT CALLED ARREST OF 19 JOURNALISTS BY GVN "REPRESSION OF THE PRESS" (UPI, NYDN). GVN REPORTEDLY PLANNED TO DISPLAY ARRESTED JOURNALISTS WITH "PROOF" OF GUILT (MARKHAM, NYT).

THIEU REPLACED COMMANDER OF VITAL MIL AREA AROUND SAIGON, LTGEN DONG, WITH LTGEN TOAN. DONG RECENTLY SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT REVERSES WITH LOSS OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE AND IMPORTANT MOUNTAIN IN TAY NINH. TOAN WAS TRANSFERRED THREE MONTHS AGO AS GESTURE TO DEMANDS FOR CLEANUP OF ARMY AND HAS REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION BUT ALSO KNOWN AS AGGRESSIVE COMMANDER (NYT).

GVN REPORTS 169 COMMUNISTS AND 39 ARVN KIA IN PAST DAY. MIL SOURCES SAID AT LEAST 90 OF COMMUNISTS WERE KIA BY AIR STRIKES NEAR DISTRICT TOWN IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE (UPI, NYDN).

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES PREDICT COMMUNISTS WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS IN SVN, AND THIS IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY GVN OFFICERS WHO ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE HOPE (ANDERSON/WHITTEN, WP).

LAT'S MCARTHUR (2/5) NOTES RECENT UNCONFIRMED REPORT
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PAGE 03 STATE 028088

OF AMERICAN DEFECTOR ACCOMPANYING NVA IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. TELLS OF WORK OF JCRC IN TRYING TO GET INFO ON MIAS AND POSSIBLE DESERTERS. QUOTES JCRC COMMANDER'S OFFICIAL REPLY THAT NO FIRM EVIDENCE THAT ANY MIAS STILL ALIVE. SAYS THAT PRIVATELY SOME OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT AS MANY AS FIVE AMERICANS MAY BE DEFECTORS WHO HAVE CHOSEN, OR BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT, ANONYMITY.

CDN'S KEYES BEECH (2/1-2) IN BANGKOK REVIEWS IMPASSE ON SEARCH FOR MIAS, AND WORK OF JCRC THAT AWAITS CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON COMMUNISTS' PART TO SEND MORE FIELD TEAMS OUT. NOTES THAT LESS THAN 25 PCT OF SVN IS CONSIDERED SAFE ENOUGH FOR TEAMS TO OPERATE. SAYS "PEACE OF A SORT" THAT HAS BEEN RESTORED TO LAOS SEEMED TO OFFER SOME HOPE OF RECOVERING DEAD, BUT AREAS WHERE US PLANES WENT DOWN ARE CONTROLLED BY NVA AND PL.

NAVY SOURCES SAID REBELS SANK TWO AMMO BARGES, HEADING UP MEKONG TO PP, WITH MINES; TWO OTHER BARGES AND TUGS RETURNED TO SVN (GREENWAY, WP; AP, SUN). 6GREENWAY REPORTS FROM PP THAT REBEL ROCKET LANDED OUTSIDE SCHOOL, KILLED EIGHT OR NINE CHILDREN AND WOUNDED ABOUT 20 ACCORDING SCHOOL OFFICIALS. DESCRIBES BLOODY SCENE LATER WITH ANXIOUS PARENTS OUTSIDE. NOTES THAT ANOTHER ROCKET LANDED NEAR CENTRAL MARKET AND KILLED FOUR.

2. JAPAN

AFP TANEGASHIMA (WP) SAYS SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED TWO-STAGE EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET WEDNESDAY.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO REPORTS LDP STILL SEEKING MAN TO RUN AGAINST TOKYO'S INCUMBENT LEFT-WING GOV MINOBE IN APRIL, TRYING TO DRAFT "CHARISMATIC" YOUNG RIGHT-WING AUTHOR-POLITICIAN SHINTARO ISHIHARA. SAYS MINOBE RETAINS "REMARKABLE" 60 PERCENT SUPPORT RATE, MOSTLY ON PERSONAL CHARM, UNQUESTIONED HONESTY AND CHAMPIONING LITTLE MAN. BUT NOTES MINOBE VULNERABLE THIS TIME BECAUSE COMMUNISTS THREATEN TO WITHHOLD USUAL SUPPORT ON GROUNDS FAVORS SOCIALISTS.

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PAGE 04 STATE 028088

AP TOKYO (CHITRIB) DETAILS HOW AGGRESSIVE SALESMEN, BANKERS CUT JAPAN'S 1974 BOP DEFICIT TO 6.6 BILLION DOLS, FROM 10 BILLION IN 1973, DESPITE SOARING COST OF OIL, FOOD IMPORTS. BIGGEST RISE IN EXPORTS TO ME. USUAL TRADE SURPLUS WITH US UP 30 PERCENT, TO 1.7 BILLION DOLS, BUT CITES US OFFICIAL THIS NOT YET PROBLEM. SAYS INTL FINANCIERS RETAINED CONFIDENCE IN RESOURCE-POOR NATION.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS LEYLAND MOTOR REPS ARRIVE TOKYO TO TALK WITH TOYOTA ABOUT SOME SORT OF "TIE-UP." TOYOTA EXECS SAY TALKS WILL ONLY CONFIRM AGREEMENT IMPOSSIBLE.

WSJ (TOKYO) NOTES 4.6 PERCENT RISE IN NEW VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN JAN, TOTALING 209,498 UNITS.

UPI TOKYO (JOC) SAYS ESSEX JAPAN TO BUILD 13.3 MILLION DOL PLANT, BECOME FIRST 100 PERCENT FOREIGN OWNED PHARMACEUTICAL MAKER IN JAPAN; SUBSIDIARY OF US FIRM, SHERING-PLOUGH.

3. CHINA

IN FIRST MAJOR SOVIET REACTION TO RECENT CHINA LEADERSHIP CHANGES, PRAVDA SAYS NEW PRC CONSTITUTION MARKED STEP BACK FOR CHINESE PEOPLE, AND THAT NPC HAD BEEN COMPROMISE BETWEEN WARRING FACTIONS IN PEKING LEADERSHIP (WP). NYT'S CLARITY, IN MOSCOW, NOTES SOVIET ANALYSIS CASTIGATED PRC CONSTITUTION ALMOST ARTICLE BY ARTICLE, AND WAS APPARENT ATTEMPT TO PROVE NEW BASIC LAW WAS INTENDED TO ENSLAVE CHINESE, ENHANCE POWER OF MAO AND SUPPORTERS, AND REPLACE MARXISM WITH MAOISM. POND (CSM), IN MOSCOW, REPORTS SOME OBSERVERS INTERPRETED TONE OF PRAVDA ARTICLE AS SHOWING WEAKENED SOVIET HOPES FOR ANY PRO-SOVIET SHIFT IN POST-MAO LEADERSHIP. IMPLICIT WAS CONCERN THAT MAOISM IS BEING INSTITUTIONALIZED IN PRC CONSTITUTION, TO CONTINUE EVEN WITHOUT MAO IN PERSON.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 028088

NCNA CONFIRMS EARTHQUAKE STRUCK SOUTHERN LIANONING PROVINCE TWO DAYS AGO. DID NOT MENTION CASUALTIES, BUT SAID MEDICAL TEAMS SENT TO "STRICKEN AREA" BY PLA HOSPITALS.

NYT (SPECIAL) REPORTS FIRST CONSPICUOUS SIGN OF THAW IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS APPEARED IN CALCUTTA WHEN PRC TEAM TOOK PART IN OPENING OF 33D WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS. FIRST PRC ORGANIZED GROUP IN INDIA SINCE 1962 HIMALAYAN WAR BETWEEN THEM, AND GOI HAS ASCRIBED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO PEKING'S RESPONSE TO TABLE TENNIS INVITATION. CHINA DELEGATION RECEIVED BIGGEST OVATION ACCORDED ANY OF 51 TEAMS AT OPENING.

4. KOREA

GLOBE'S STORIN IN TOKYO SAYS LT GEN HOLLINGSWORTH INADVERTANTLY STRAYED INTO SK'S "UNSAVORY DOMESTIC POLITICS" BY TELLING UPI'S CRABBE IN INTERVIEW JAN 28 THAT NK INVASION "UNLIKELY." NOTES THIS UNDERCUTS THREAT-FROM-NORTH RATIONALE FOR PARK'S ONE-MAN RULE, AND PARK GOVT COMPLAINED WHEN STORY HIT SEOUL.

HOLLINGSWORTH THEN MADE U-TURN, TELLING PRESS AT PRAYER BREAKFAST (DEDICATED TO FORD'S EFFORT FOR WORLD PEACE) THAT ENEMY HAS CAPABILITY OF ATTACKING SOUTH "WITH GREAT STRENGTH -- WITH ARTILLERY, TANKS AND COMBAT DIVISIONS," AND INFILTRATING SK BY AIR, LAND AND SEA. OBSERVES U-TURN REMARKS HELP REPRESSIVE PARK GOVT BUT MAY ALSO CONFIRM FEARS THAT FUEL CONGRESSIONAL MOVES TO WITHDRAW US TROOPS FROM SK.

5. PHILIPPINES

NYT SPECIAL (MANILA) SAYS MARCOS GOVT DECIDED WEDNESDAY TO BUILD CHICO RIVER HYDROELECTRIC DAM, BIGGEST IN ASIA, DESPITE OPPOSITION BY 15,000 MINORITY TRIBE FAMILIES THAT WILL BE DISPLACED.

6. THAILAND

CSM'S SCHMIDT REPORTS THAI AMBASSADOR "IN UNUSAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 028088

INTERVIEW" INDICATED HIS NATION MAY SOON OPEN

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NK, AND PERHAPS PEKING. ANAND VISITED BOTH WITH THAI TRADE MISSION IN DEC. AMB SAID NK ASKED FOR RECOGNITION, "AND IT WILL BE UP TO THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT....TO MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISION." SAID CHINESE, WITH WHOM THAIS FEEL "BLOOD RELATIONSHIP," WERE CORDIAL TO THAI DELEGATION AS "PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE" MISSION. AMB NOTED RTG WAS "WIDENING WINDOWS" TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ALL GOVTS REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY, EVEN BEFORE STUDENT REVOLT. IN VEILED REFERENCE TO CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON US MIL AID, ANAND SAID RTG MIGHT ASK USAF WITHDRAW FROM BASES, IF IT BECOMES APPARENT US NO LONGER SUPPORTS SAIGON, PP.

7. BURMA

SUN STAFFER IN RANGOON FINDS BURMA'S SOCIALIST DICTATORSHIP, LONG DISCREDITED FOR ECONOMIC FAILURES, NOW MORE UNPOPULAR THAN EVER BECAUSE OF HARSH REPRESSION OF UNPRECEDENTED DEC. RIOTS. CITES EXPRESSIONS OF HATRED FOR ARMY, WHICH FIRED ON CIVILIANS, AND HOSTILITY FOR GUB, WHICH REFUSED TO GIVE U THANT STATE FUNERAL. MASS ARRESTS OF STUDENTS, IN WORDS OF ONE DIPLOMAT, LEAVE RANGOON IN "SULLEN MOOD." SAYS SOME BURMESE PREDICT NEW ANTI-GOVT DEMONSTRATIONS, AND QUOTES LAWYER SAYING "PEOPLE WANT CHANGE; THEY ARE TIRED OF SUFFERING. THEY CANNOT SURVIVE UNDER THESE

CIRCUMSTANCES."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. INDOCHINA

ANTHONY LEWIS (NYT) NOTES 275 MILLION CEILING LID ON MIL SPENDING FOR GKR, AND ADMIN BACK FOR MORE. PREDICTS 425 MILLION WILL BE REQUESTED FOR NEXT FY. QUOTES EA ASSIST SEC HABIB BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE FEW DAYS AGO THAT WORLD WATCHING TO SEE WHAT WE DO IN CAMBODIA. CALLS HABIB SKILLFUL AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 028088

EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT, BUT SAYS HIS CASE CONVINCING ONLY TO ONE OBLIVIOUS TO RECENT HISTORY. POINTS OUT RECORD OF US WORDS AND ACTIONS, AND RESULTS IN CAMBODIA. RECOUNTS ASSURANCE ACCOMPANYING 1970 INCURSION THAT US NOT UNDERTAKING LONG-RANGE MIL ROLE. DESCRIBES US MIL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING BOMBING THAT WENT ON UNTIL CONGRESS STOPPED IT; REPORTS CURRENTLY US DIPLOMATS AND OTHERS PLAY "CRITICAL ROLE IN ADVISING, IF NOT DIRECTING, LON NOL'S TACTICS,"

AND STATES US AID TO GKR TOTALS 1.85 BILLION TO DATE.

ACCORDING LEWIS, RESULTS HAVE BEEN HEART-RENDING WAR WITH ENORMOUS CASUALTIES AND REFUGEE HORDES. BELIEVES LON NOL REGIME'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WORSE NOW AFTER FIVE YRS OF US AID; MAINTAINS IT LACKS POLITICAL WILL, IS CORRUPT ALMOST TO POINT OF DISINTEGRATION, AND HANGS ON IN PP AND FEW TOWNS BECAUSE OF US SUBVENTION. WONDERS IF US INTERVENTION HAS HELPED CAMBODIANS AND IF MORE IS LIKELY TO BRING THEM PEACE OR STABILITY, AS GOES ARGUMENTS CONGRESS BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT. CONCLUDES OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL, BUT PATIENT IS DYING.

CROSBY NOYES (S-N 2/4) SEES US PREPARING TO ABANDON ALLY THAT WE ENCOURAGED TO RESIST NVN. BELIEVES NO QUESTION EXISTS THAT UNDER C-F WE ASSUMED OBLIGATION TO AID SVN RESIST COMMUNIST MIL PRESSURE. NOTES THAT ACTION WAS FORMALLY RATIFIED BY CONGRESS THAT AUTHORIZED ONE BILLION DOLS IN MIL AID. CITES ALMOST UNIVERSAL PREDICTION THAT CONGRESS WILL REFUSE EXTRA MIL AID, AND SAYS TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT HAVE COMBINED TO PRODUCE LIKELY REFUSAL: ONE THAT HAS LONG BELIEVED SOMETHING MORALLY WRONG ABOUT RESISTANCE OF SVN TO CONQUEST BY NVN, AND OTHER THAT HOLDS ANY FURTHER SUPPORT OF SVN USELESS, SINCE CAUSE LOST. SUSPECTS AMERICANS NOT

IMPRESSED BY RATIONALIZATIONS FOR DISGRACEFUL SELL-OUT
WILL BE HEARD FROM IN MONTHS AHEAD.

S-N'S PRICE (2/4) SUGGESTS THE MORE APPEALING THE
RHETORIC OF POLITICAL PROPOSAL, THE LESS LIKELY ITS
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PAGE 08 STATE 028088

WISDOM. SAYS THIS RULE HAS SPECIAL PERTINENCE TO
DEBATE OVER MORE AID TO SVN, SO SPECIAL BURDEN OF
PROOF ATTACHES TO AID-CUTTERS AND MEASURE OF RESPECT
IS DUE TO ARGUMENTS OF AID-INCREASERS. SEES NVN
TWO YRS AFTER C-F STILL PRESSING WAR, AND SVN,
"CONFOUNDING AMERICAN CRITICS," STILL DEFENDING
SELF WITH VALOR AND SKILL. RAPS CRITICS OF
CONTINUED AID FOR SHRUGGING OFF SUBJUGATION OF ALLY
AS SIMPLY "PUTTING AN END TO THE KILLING." DRAWS
ANALOGY WITH THEORETICAL INVASION OF FRANCE BY
GERMANY. BELIEVES PART OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF VN
ISSUE IS DIFFICULTY IN GETTING POINT ACROSS THAT WHETHER
OR NOT TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IS DECISION TO BE MADE
BY S VIETS, NOT IMPOSED BY US.

PRICE SEES WIDESPREAD, OFTEN INCHOATE, YEARNING TO
MAKE WHOLE TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN
VN GO AWAY. CALLS EXTRA AID "PITTANCE" COMPARED TO
US BUDGET AND TO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SPENT IN VN.
CHARACTERIZES AID-CUT DRIVE NOT AS ECONOMY MEASURE,
BUT DEEP DESIRE ON PART OF MANY TO PUNISH SOUTH VIETS
BECAUSE US HAS SUFFERED, AND TO ACT OUT HATRED FOR
EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH VN WAR. CALLS THIS MEAN,
PETTY, VINDICTIVE, SHORT-SIGHTED. ASSERTS THAT AS
NATION SVN HAS RIGHT TO LIFE, AND AS GREAT POWER US
HAS INTEREST IN ENSURING MEASURE OF STABILITY BROUGHT
BY ITS WAR IS NOT WASHED AWAY BY REVULSION AGAINST
WAR'S COSTS. ALSO SEES US WITH MORAL OBLIGATION TO
SOUTH VIETS AND TO OURSELVES, SINCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
INDUCING DEFEAT OF ALLY IS NOT ONE WE SHOULD INVITE
ON CONSCIENCE.

GLOBE'S KELLY REVIEWS HAYDEN-FONDA DOCUMENTARY,
"INTRODUCTION TO THE ENEMY," THAT WANTS TO "FIRE
OUR CONSCIENCE ... BUT FOR ALL ITS SYMPATHY AND
COMPASSION, IS LIKE STRIKING A DAMP MATCH." NOTES
CAMERA "PANS IN HOME MOVIE FRENZY," AND PICTURE,
DESPITE INTENTIONS OF MAKERS, IS "SOMETIMES
EMBARRASSING HOME MOVIE." KELLY ADMIRES FONDA
AND HAYDEN FOR COURAGE AND TENACITY, BUT DOESN'T
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 028088

ADMIRE "SELF-RIGHTOUSNESS THEY INADVERTANTLY DISPLAY,"
AND FONDA'S WEDGING HERSELF INTO INTERVIEWS WHERE
SHE OFTEN TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER INTENDED CONVERSATION.
ONE SCENE MAKES KELLY QUESTION HAYDEN'S EMOTIONAL
STABILITY. BELIEVES FILM AT LEAST DOES HONOR VIETS
IN "INCREDIBLE ANGUISH OF THEIR ONGOING STRUGGLE."

9. CHINA

GLOBE'S CROCKER SNOW FINDS SINO-US COMMUNICATIONS
"MUCH CLEARER AND QUICKER NOW" THAN IN FIRST SHADOWY
DAYS OF DETENTE. SAYS WITHIN DAYS OF NPC'S ENDING,
WHILE CHINA WATCHERS WERE STILL ARGUING VOCABULARY,
WESTERN TRADE AND ECONOMIC TYPES HAD "ESSENTIAL
MESSAGE" AND WERE AGREED THAT CHOU WAS SECURED
IN SADDLE, THAT HIS STRESS ON MODERATION OVER
REVOLUTION REMAINED CHINA'S DOMINANT THEME.

ACCORDING SNOW, SUCH CONCLUSION WASN'T ALL THAT
PROFOUND, FOR CHINESE HAD PASSED WORD TO NCUSCT
OF THEIR RENEWED INTEREST IN HAVING HIGH-LEVEL
COMMERCIAL DELEGATION TOUR US THIS YEAR. "NO
SMALL HAPPENSTANCE, THIS," FOR NO CHINESE DELEGATION
OF THIS KIND HAS EVER VISITED US; IN RECENT YEARS

OF IMPROVING RELATIONS, REPEATED US INVITATIONS
WERE RETURNED WITH REGRETS. NOW IT SUDDENLY APPEARS
BANK OF CHINA/STATE TRADING CORP HARD-EYED TRADERS
MAY BE DEALING DIRECTLY WITH US INDUSTRIALISTS HERE
THIS YEAR.

SUCH DEVELOPMENT WILL FURTHER INSTITUTIONALIZE TREND
WELL UNDER WAY OF STRENGTHENING SINO-US MANUFACTURING
TIES, DESPITE DECLINING TWO-WAY TRADE. SNOW SAYS
SOME OF MOST NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN MOST
DISCREET: BOEING SALE OF 10 707S HAS BROUGHT CHINESE
MECHANICS AND MAINTENANCE MEN TO FIRM'S SEATTLE
PLANTS; MWKELLOGG CO.'S SALE OF EIGHT AMMONIA PLANTS
FOR FERTILIZER HAS MEANT CHINESE TECHNICIANS TRAVELING
TO TEXAS FOR STUDY AND ORIENTATION.

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PAGE 10 STATE 028088

COMING CATALYST IN TWO-WAY SINO-US TRADE MAY BE OIL.
CHINESE NOW SHOWING HIGH INTEREST IN US TECHNIQUES
AND RIGS FOR UNDERWATER DRILLING -- AND THIS COMES

"JUST THREE SHORT YEARS" AFTER SINO-US THAW BEGAN
IN EARNEST.

WP'S ANDERSON/WHITTEN CITE INTELLIGENCE REPORT FROM
PEKING THAT CHINA CANCELLED WHEAT PURCHASES FROM US
BECAUSE PRICE HAS DROPPED SINCE DEAL MADE. "ONCE
AGAIN, IT LOOKS LIKE THE COMMUNISTS ARE OUT-TRADING
THE CAPITALISTS."

ANDERSON/WHITTEN ADD THAT CIA, EAGER FOR DETAILS ON
MAO'S HEALTH, KEPT WATCH ON TRIO OF PRC PHARMACOLOGISTS
WHO RECENTLY VISITED US, AND VIGILANCE PAID OFF. SAY
CHINESE SPECIALISTS MET WITH ONE OF MOST CELEBRATED

US PSYCHO-PHARMACOLOGISTS, WHO WAS LATER VISITED BY
CIA AGENT. LEARNED CHINESE HAD SPECIAL INTEREST IN
PARKINSON'S DISEASE, DEBILITATING AFFLICTION
REPORTEDLY PLAGUING MAO. SAY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
CLAIM MAO IN FAILING HEALTH, SUGGEST HE HAS
OCCASIONAL SPELLS OF INCOMPETENCE. ANDERSON/WHITTEN
SAY MAO'S CONDITION MAY EXPLAIN PEKING'S "MYSTERIOUS
POWER SHIFTS" -- ALTHOUGH SOME INTELLIGENCE REPORTS
SUGGEST CHOU MAY BE FRONTING FOR STRONGMAN WHO DOESN'T
WANT TO EMERGE WHILE MAO STILL ALIVE.

10. DIEGO GARCIA

FROM COLOMBO, CSM'S NICHOLAS DISCOVERS MANY ASIAN
LEADERS HAVE COOLED TO INDIAN OCEAN PEACE-ZONE
PROPOSED BY INDIA, SRI LANKA, THUS SOFTENING EARLIER

OPPOSITION TO BUILDING NEW US BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.
MOST FEEL PEACE ZONE IDEA UNENFORCEABLE, IMPRACTICAL,
SO LONG AS ACCESS TO ME OIL IS MAJOR PREOCCUPATION;
INSTEAD, THEY PREFER TO SEE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO
SUPERPOWERS. BELIEVES WHITLAM DEALT BIGGEST BLOW
TO PROPOSAL BY DODGING COMMENT IN COLOMBO PRESS
CONFERENCE TWO MONTHS AGO. AT MOMENT, OBSERVES
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 028088

MOST ASIAN LEADERS THINK SOVIET IS BIGGEST THREAT
OF DOMINATION, SUBVERSION; BUT WHATEVER THEIR
VIEWS, CONCLUDES MOST ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH US MIL
PRESENCE, AND FIGURE "KNOWN EVIL IS BETTER THAN AN
UNKNOWN ONE." KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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